

Close To Seventy-five Local Boys Making Good in Professional Baseball

Local Sandlots Have Turned Out Many Good Professional Baseball Players During the Past Ten Years--Two Are Now Delivering the Goods in Each of the Major Leagues

Seventy-five Washington Athletes Are Making Good in Organized Circuits.

ENGEL TOPS THE LIST

Youthful Hurler Gives Promise of Helping Nationals Win Pennant in 1915.

By JOHN A. DUGAN.

Local sandlot baseball during the last ten years has turned out a number of good professional ball players. At the close of the 1914 playing season near to seventy-five local ball players returned to Washington and all have made good in professional company.

At present Washington can boast of having two players in the company of major league teams. These are Joe Engel, who is among Clark Griffith's promising young hurlers, and Billy Martin, who is the local "world's series hero," as the pen displayed by the former Hilltop shortstop during the closing days of the National League race and in the big title clashes has gained for him a warm heart of all the players on George Stallings' fighting Boston Braves.

Throughout the minor leagues from Class A down to Class D baseball can be found many local players fighting to stay off a pennant-winning combination or ranked as a hero among the fans of distant cities for his timely awards, which paved the way for his club to land the verdict in a hard-fought race for the flag.

A Good Receiver.

Joe Geible, who was rated as the best among our sandlot receivers two or three years ago, is doing the bulk of backstopping for the Kansas City team of the American Association, and if the reports from the West are to carry anything at all Joe is sure to be up in the big show next season.

Buck Barton, former Peppo hurler, did the bulk of the flinging for the Newport News team of the Virginia League. He was turned out to the Virginians by Clark Griffith after he failed to make good with the Los Angeles team of the Pacific Coast League, and although with a losing aggregation he finished the season with an average better than Joe, which is more than good in this Class D outfit.

Julius "Dutch" Munch, who was Barton's battery mate on the champion Peppo team, met with one or two setbacks during the season just closed. Drifting from the Nationals to Elmira, in the New York League, Munch had his fingers broken and Manager Conroy sent him home and during the time for convalescing he was given his unconditional release. Not disheartened with this, Munch signed with the Decatur team of the Western Association, and finished the season with a good average and will return to do the backstopping there this coming year.

To Go with Pirates.

Dutch Sterger is among the older heads of local ball players, he having been out in professional rank for the past seven seasons, and had a try out in the majors on two occasions. Sterger is at present the property of the Pittsburgh team, having been purchased from the Racine team of the Michigan State League.

Joe Stanley is managing the Springfield team of the Ohio State League, and is always willing to give a local boy a chance to try for a berth with his Ohio State League team.

Bob Murphy, another member of the victorious Peppo team, was sent to the Oakland team of the Pacific Coast League, early last February by Manager Callahan of the Chicago White Sox. Murphy was switched to the outfield with the Coast Leaguers, and made good in both departments, hitting the pill for a .312 average. He was called home suddenly near the end of the season, owing to the death of his mother and made a fine showing in his first game, winning his race with death by a few hours.

Richmond Gets Hager.

Buss Hager, who was one of the most promising looking receivers in the local amateur ranks, was signed by the Hagerstown team of the Tri-City League, and finished the season with the stellar champions of Maryland. Hager did everything he could in the games in which he performed and will go to Richmond, of the Virginia League, in 1915.

Frank Colley was the mainstay for the Freeburg team of the Georgia Creek League and showed so well in the final games of the season that he was purchased by the Lancaster team of the Tri-State League and will report there this spring.

Walter "Buck" Platt, who was Colley's battery partner, was ranked among the best receivers in the local minor league and although he was not drafted he expects to report with some class to the club this season as he is a free agent.

Johnny Mac did the receiving for the Richmond team of the Virginia State League this season and was ranked by many of the sport writers as the best receiver in that circuit.

Bertrand Cleveland was with the Norfolk team early in the season just past, but was bought by the Birmingham team of the Southern League and showed enough in the three games in which he worked to guarantee him a permanent berth with the Southerners next season.

Claimed by Two Clubs.

Charles "Finley" Kelly, the diminutive hurler of the Eastern team of the Potomac League, was signed by Manager Morris of the Martinsburg club of the Tri-City League and showed to great form with the upstart team. Kelly returned to this city in an effort to help his former teammates capture the amateur championship, but the Eastern nine finished second to Ninth in the Tri-City league. Kelly is in bad with the National Commission for signing two contracts for one season. He put his name to a Dallas, Tex., contract and two days later was claimed by the Asheville team of the Carolina League.

Warren Dean, another of Manager Morris' champion Martinsburg team, will be seen with the Baltimore Orioles of the International League next summer, as the little chatter from the Tri-City circuit was signed by Jack Dunn during the heat of the race up in West Virginia last summer.

Just where Manager Morris will locate this season has not yet been decided, but the successful pilot of the West Virginians is sure of having a promising job by the time old spring rolls around.

Long with Orioles.

Tots' Long, famed for his heavy hit-



ALVIN HOWARD, Lawrence club of the New England State League.



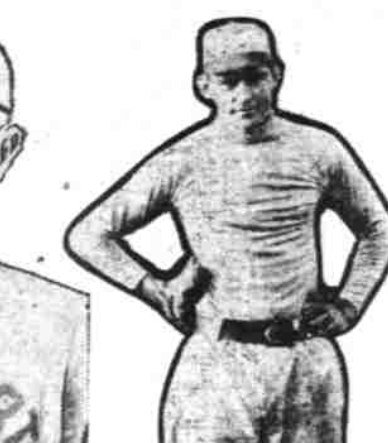
"FINNEY" KELLY, Disputed by Dallas club of Texas League and Asheville club of Carolina State League.



CYCLE RICHMOND, Petersburg club of Virginia State League.



WARREN DEAN, Baltimore club of the International League.



MIKE MORAN, Of the Los Angeles club of Pacific Coast League.



Billy Martin's "Pep" Big Factor in Work with Champion Boston Braves.

GEIBLE IS A REAL STAR

Doing Bulk of Receiving for Kansas City Club of the American Association.

who hails from Northeast Washington, was with the Martinsburg club for a short while last season, but he finished the season in the Virginia State League, doing the mound duties for the Richmond club.

Tommy Cantwell, one of the old boys, is with the Terre Haute club of the Central League. Tommy is one of the best hurlers ever turned out at Georgetown University and has had quite a little experience in professional company, having a try with the Cincinnati team, during the reign of Clark Griffith with the Reds.

With Marquette Club.

Babe Adams, who played the first base position for the Cornell Tigers and the Potomac team two years ago, is the first sacker for the Marquette club of the Wisconsin League. He has played that position for them last season and being signed again for next season.

Johnny Geale is another of the "old boys." Geale has been in the big show on two occasions. At present he is the property of the Denver club, of the Western League.

Johnny Priest has been given a trial in the big show only to find himself back with the minors. The Yankees turned him over to the New York team, and he is at present playing in the show field position for the Elmira club, of the New York State League.

Johnny Sih, another local boy, who was up among the best in the vicinity at the receiving game, managed the Freeburg team, of the Georgia Creek League, last season and proved to be a successful pilot. He will be with the Upper Marylanders again next season.

Rhodes Made Good.

Dusty Rhodes, a product of the Rose-dale Playgrounds, took a shot at professional baseball last season with the York team, of the Tri-State League, and the big beaver made good on the jump. He finished the season with a good record, and will be with the Pennsylvanians again next season.

Phil Buecher numbers among the "old boys," as he has been given trials with minor leagues during the past five seasons. Last season the "smoke ball" hurler made good with the Montgomery team, of the Southern League, and will be back with the Southerners again this spring.

Johnny Munford, who proved to be the best hurler in the Potomac League in 1912, attracted the attention of Clark Griffith and was given a trial with the Nationals last season. The big hurler lacked the experience and was shipped to Newport News of the New York team. He will be taken to Charlottesville again this spring and every one across the Branch will be pulling for him to make good with the big show artists.

With Hartford Club.

Mickey Kellher, the best fielding first sacker the local sandlots have ever seen, has quite a little experience in organized baseball, having been given a chance with the Pittsburgh team in 1912. Last season he was with the champion Hartford team of the Connecticut State League. He will return there this spring. Manager Stallings of the Braves made a bid for his services, but the deal was never arranged.

Chick Davis has proven to be the best fielding third sacker that the local sandlots have ever turned out, but owing to his weakness with the old stick he has never been able to hold his own with the minor league outfits. He was with Newport News for a short while last season and will report there again this spring.

Sam Johnson, the speedster of the Potomac League, was given a trial last season with the Martinsburg team of the Tri-City League, but owing to his poor work with the stick he was sent back. He will report to the manager of the Chambersburg team this spring for a trial in the big show on the navy yard is pulling for the fast flyer.

A Promising Hurler.

Eddie Kelly is the most promising young hurler that the local sandlots have turned out in a long while, he being the mainstay for the champion Ninth Street Christian team last season. He took a short trial with the Martinsburg team last spring, but did not make good. He is now working hard for a try out this season from Classes D and C organizations, but has not stated definitely who he will go with.

Magpie Woods, the leading batter of the Potomac League last season, will jump into professional company this season. He has a contract from the Springfield team, of the Tri-City League, and so ought will cast his lot with the Ohio team this spring. He played a short while with the Martinsburg team, of the Tri-City League, last season.

Brownie Limerick was given a trial with the Petersburg team, of the Virginia League, last season, but failed to make good. He is the fastest player on the District on the paves, and can hit that old pill, and will be with the Baltimore team, of the Baltimore League, next season.

Rapp an Old Star.

Billy Rapp is among the older heads, having played with the Washington team. Last season he was with the Wichita team, of the Western League, and led the club with the stick. He will be with the Western outfit again this season.

"Skibby" Giovannetti, the star receiver of the sandlots last season, has been promised to the New York Yankees, having talked it over with Frank Chance last spring. Since Chance has withdrawn from New York and the Yankees have been sold, the fighting receiver does not know where he stands. Otto Knabe, the manager of the Baltimore outfit, also is dickering with the fast receiver.

Tommy Crooks, one of our leading double playmen, will be among the older players in the captain of the Bridgeport team, of the Connecticut State League, having played there for the past three seasons. He will report to Bridgeport this spring. Crooks played first base for the Washington team under the management of Joe Castillon.

Big Six Brewer, who has had quite an experience in professional baseball, will be with the Bridgeport team, of the Connecticut State League, this spring, having signed a contract to catch for the Nutmeg outfit a week or so ago.



AL HANDIOE, Savannah club of the South Atlantic League.



DUTCH MUNCH, Of the Decatur club of the Western Association.



TOMMY CANTWELL, Of the Terra Haute club of the Western League.



BILLY MARTIN, Of the champion Boston Braves.



MONCK WALTERS, Manager of the Chambersburg team.



BOB MURPHY, Of the Oakland club of the Pacific Coast League.

Jimmie Coffroth Defends Fighters of Present Day

Says Old-time Ring Favorites Are Not as Good as Boxers Nowadays.

PUBLIC DEMANDS SPEED

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 2.—From time to time it has been customary for some eminent individual in the sporting world to ruminate on the merits and demerits of the boxers of the past and present. The favorite indoor pastime among ring fighters of the old school and those of the present day. The verdict reached, especially in those worships of the old method of ring battle, invariably is that the flock of fighters that is now figuring in the public eye is a bevy of dubs.

Now comes unexpectedly James Coffroth, peer of light romancers and for thirteen years a dominant figure in the world of professional sport. James Coffroth explodes a bombshell. It is this: That buzz talk of the decadence of fighters is pitiful. The fighters of today are just as great as were the fighters of John L. Sullivan's day.

"And a bevy of the old school," Coffroth further states, "a man who for three or four rounds did nothing but feel his opponent out would be hoisted out of the ring."

"These fellows wouldn't stand for it, and a promoter who attempted to stage such a bout would risk his reputation and all future business prospects as a sporting manipulator."

"Times have changed that is all," Coffroth declares. "The people of the present day are a fast-moving class, and they demand action in every walk of life. It is this public demand that has made the change in the style of glove gladiators. It is this that created the Nelsons and the Wolgasts and all the other change in the style of glove gladiators. It is this that created the Nelsons and the Wolgasts and all the other change in the style of glove gladiators. It is this that created the Nelsons and the Wolgasts and all the other change in the style of glove gladiators."

"The boxers of today naturally must be better than the old timers, because that is the law of progress. The world is not receding—it is going ahead. Man has improved; therefore, fighters have improved."

Outpoints Kilbane. Pittsburgh, Jan. 2.—Pete Brandstetter, outpointed Johnny Kilbane, featherweight champion, in six rounds.

Rowland outgrew the over-large trousers, but he never outgrew the name.

1914'S RING HISTORY

Compiled by John Pollock.

Rating	Fights	W.	L.	D.	N.D.	Rating	Fights	W.	L.	D.	N.D.
Battling Levinsky	20	4	0	0	0	Billy Moran	11	4	2	1	1
Young Drummie	20	4	0	0	0	Stanley Williams	11	4	2	1	1
Young Dundee	20	4	0	0	0	Kel Williams	10	6	0	0	0
Jack Dill	19	10	0	0	0	Al Wolgast	9	2	0	0	0
Jack McArthur	20	3	0	1	0	Gimber Smith	9	2	0	0	0
Peddie Kilbane	18	6	0	0	0	Hot Kid McVey	9	2	0	0	0
Joe Jeannotte	16	9	0	0	0	Mike Johnston	8	2	0	0	0
Harry Stone	16	11	1	1	0	Tom Finn	8	4	2	0	0
Willie Beardsley	16	11	1	1	0	Johnny McArthur	8	4	0	0	0
Joe Simpson	15	3	0	0	0	Johnny Kilbane	8	2	0	0	0
Charles White	15	3	0	0	0	Willie Beardsley	8	2	0	0	0
Young Louis	15	3	0	0	0	Carl Morris	7	0	0	0	0
Joe Sawyer	15	3	0	0	0	Bob McVey	7	2	0	0	0
Jack Britton	15	3	0	0	0	Sam Robinson	7	0	0	0	0
P. Burns, Jr.	14	1	0	0	0	Sam Robinson	7	0	0	0	0
Tommy Kid Lewis	14	1	0	0	0	George Argenti	7	4	1	0	0
Lonch Cook	11	1	0	0	0	Harry Baldwin	7	2	1	1	0
						Joe Jeannotte	7	2	1	1	0
						Charles Ledet	6	0	0	0	0
						Willie Beardsley	6	0	0	0	0
						Jimmy Duffy	5	0	0	0	0
						Bob McArthur	5	1	1	1	0
						Sam Robinson	5	0	0	0	0
						Colin Bell	4	2	0	0	0

STALLINGS TELLS HOW TO TELL WHEN SLIPPING

Players' Eyes Are Best Just Before They Fade, but His Legs Begin to Slow Up.

New York, Jan. 2.—"How do you tell when a ball player starts to get old?" one of a group asked George Stallings during the baseball meeting in the Waldorf in New York recently.

"I have watched a lot of big leaguers start to slip," answered the chief, "and they all begin to go first in their legs. It's a funny thing about the great stars when they once start to fade. After they slow up on their feet they generally hit harder than they did when they had all their speed. The eye dims last, and it seems to get better just before it starts to fade."

"FANTS" AS NICKNAME.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Around the Three-Eyes circuit, Clarence "Rowland," new manager of the White Sox, is known as "Fants." He himself said he has never had a real nickname other than that of "Boss," conferred on him by his players. But his intimate friends often refer to him as "Fants." The story reads that when he first started to play ball with a semi-professional team here he appeared on the field in a uniform belonging to an older brother who was a lot bigger than Little Clarence.

The knickers were big enough to have furnished an entire suit for the youngster, so the manager came easy for the "Fants."

Rowland outgrew the over-large trousers, but he never outgrew the name.

NO CATCHER EVER WORKED LIKE DOON

Former Manager of Phillies Has Been Thirteen Years in Big Show.

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Golf Driving Cricket Out of English Hearts

SEVENTEEN YEARS IN THE BIG LEAGUES

Roger Bresnahan Has Long Career in Major Circuits—Played with Washington in 1897.

Veterans of the game are slowing up, and Hans Wagner is wabbling noticeably. With the Chicago Cubs there are two players of more than fifteen years' big league service who are playing with their youthful vigor and gusto. They are Roger Bresnahan and Tommy Leach.

Many fans wondered why the Cubs bought Bresnahan from the Cardinals. They didn't think he'd fit in as a player after being a manager. He looked way overweight, slow and scarcely full of the ambition necessary.

Today Bresnahan appears to be the keystone, as well as the manager, of the Cubs machine. He has trained hard and faithfully. He has shown himself a leader. Yet he is no longer a spring chicken. For thirteen years he has averaged nearly 100 games a year. He was one of the three men who were loyal to the Philadelphia club when the American League made its raid on the National in 1902 and Lajoie, Flick, the two Croses and several others jumped to the new league. Charley was getting \$250 at the time of the last base ball war, and as soon as the trouble was over he was cut to \$100. He has never been a high-saluted man, but has always worked hard for the club. For the past five years he has been the manager and has made an excellent showing, considering that little money was given him to spend for ball players. If he had not been hard hit by the Reds last year he would have had a good chance to win the pennant.

Before long the Giants were shying a catcher and Roger was rung in behind the bat. This was in 1904, and catcher he has been ever since.

Bresnahan showed some promise as a pitcher in 1897 that he held out for more maxima the following year and remained a good share of the season. In 1899 he went to Minneapolis and was pitching for Anson in 1900.

He was an American Leaguer in 1902, playing with Baltimore, and jumped with many others to the Giants in 1902. He found him performing as a center fielder that season and the next.

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SCHAEFER HAS RIVAL.

Mike Doulin Also Mentioned as Possible Peoria Manager.

Herman Schaefer, the former comedian of the Washington club, was set the job just named by Charles Rowland, the White Sox manager in Peoria.

E. Bernie Smith, secretary of the Peoria Three-I League club, stated yesterday that the club had made offers to Schaefer to manage the Peoria team last season.

Schaefer is expected to confer with the Peoria team last season.

Peoria is now planning to buy back to acquire Peoria. He is continuing to work with President Nelson of the Cardinals.

Beats Sailor Fritz.

Waggoner, Conn., Jan. 2.—Dumbest South colored fighting Leachy in the rounds of today.

Fight to a Draw.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Knockout Success, of New York, "W.M.B." "Dumbest" of Albany, Me. fought a ten-round draw.

National Game Showing Falling Away in Popularity in British Isles.

THE CAUSES DIFFER

While nearly all are agreed that there is something wrong with the great national game of cricket, says Garden G. Smith, in Golf Illustrated, there is much diversity of opinion as to what it is, and as to how the decay is to be arrested.

So far as one can gather, the best opinion is that the game, although somewhat changed in character, owing to new conditions, has suffered no deterioration and is still, in its highest manifestation, as attractive as ever to those who play it. However this may be, there can be no doubt that, even at its best, cricket has lost much of its attraction as a game to watch, and it is the loss of income consequent upon the decay of public interest that is chiefly causing anxiety.

In a sense, of course, cricket is suffering from the Nemesis which sooner or later overtakes all sports that are run as commercial enterprises. The moment that the financial basis of a sport is laid open to the public, it loses its independence. It becomes a business and ceases to be a sport, and it can only survive by supplying what its patrons demand.

But of the manifold causes of the waning interest in cricket—and we are inclined to think that it is the chief one—is the rivalry of golf. It may not have had any appreciable effect on the game receipts, because in England the classes that pay their sixpence and shillings to see cricket, and football matches have not yet taken up golf. But the Scottish game has struck a much more vital blow at cricket than the faithless crowd which has withdrawn its patronage. That after all is only a financial loss, and if the game is sound at heart it cannot permanently injure it. The evil that golf has wrought on cricket is that it is extracting scores and scores of young men of the very class that used to continue their cricket after leaving school, and college. Golf is thus draining the very life blood of the English game, and if the supply of first-class amateurs runs short, as it appears to be doing, the future of county cricket is black indeed.

Great Will Be Boston Field.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 2.—The new ground of the Boston National League baseball club in Allston will be the largest in the country, and will cost more than any baseball plant yet constructed. James R. Griffin, director of the plans for the new stadium, yesterday.

Big Six Brewer, who has had quite an experience in professional baseball, will be with the